

In contrast, the Applicant's invention specifically addresses the problems associated with such prior art references as Wensink. The Applicant states that "the integrated circuit can be exposed by decapsulating the plastic package within a device level decapsulation system (DLDS)." (Disclosure at page 3, lines 1-3) Also, "it is sometimes desirable to test an integrated circuit after the IC is mounted to a printed circuit board." (Disclosure at page 3, lines 10-13) The solution to testing ICs mounted on a printed circuit board is not addressed by the Wensink reference. For the reasons stated above, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9.

Similarly, claim 13 recites "a printed circuit board." At least for the reasons stated above for claim 9, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13. Claim 16 depends on claim 13 and contains all the limitations of that claim. The Applicant also requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 based on the above points.

The Examiner rejects claims 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wensink in view of Winsemius, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,792,305) ("Winsemius"). The Examiner states further that Wensink discussed above is applied to claims 9 and 13 but Wensink fails to discuss a step of controlling the flow of the decapsulating fluid through a pair of tubes as found in claims 11 and 14.

Claim 11 depends from claim 9 and contains all the limitations of that claim, at least for the reasons stated above for claim 9, the Applicant contends that claim 11 is not unpatentable over Wensink in view of Winsemius. Similarly, claim 14 depends from claim 13 and contains all the limitations of that claim. For at least the reasons stated above for claim 13 the Applicant contends that claim 14 is not unpatentable over Wensink in view of Winsemius.

The Examiner rejects claims 10, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wensink in view of Buck, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,489,854) ("Buck"). Claims 10 and 12 depend on claim 9 and contain all the limitations of that claim. For at least the reasons stated above for claim 9, the Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 12.

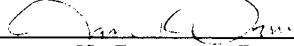
Claim 15 depends from claim 13 and contains all the limitations of that claim. For at least the reasons stated above for claim 13, the Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 9-16 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.


Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 4, 2001.


Margaret Rodriguez December 4, 2001